

CONGRESSMAN SHERWOOD BOEHLERT (R-NY)
FLOOR STATEMENT ON ANWR
May 25, 2006

Mr. Chairman:

I rise in strong opposition to this bill, which would allow oil drilling in a pristine wilderness that was set aside by that radical environmentalist Dwight David Eisenhower.

Is there any greater evidence that we are, as the President said, “addicted” to oil? Astonishingly, this Congress has not voted on a single conservation measure since gasoline hit \$3 a gallon. Not a single one.

And yet poll after poll shows the conservation measures are the preferred option of the American people for dealing with high gasoline prices – the preferred option by a long shot. The American public is thirsting to get their hands on fuel-saving technologies that companies are refusing to provide. And we have responded with...nothing. Perhaps we have forgotten that our constituents are people, not companies.

The proponents of this bill like to point out that if this legislation had been enacted eleven years ago, ANWR would now be producing oil. Well, I would point out that if Congress had not blocked higher fuel economy standards eleven years ago, we would save far more oil than ANWR would produce – and those savings would increase as ANWR was being depleted.

We really are classic addicts. We would rather keep seeking our oil fix- our heroin- with all its attendant dangers than shift to conservation – our methadone.

We are a Congress of prodigals who refuse to return home. Instead, we roam the world laying waste to new territories to continue our spendthrift ways.

We ought not just oppose this bill; we ought to be ashamed to be voting on it. I urge my colleagues to defeat this bill.